



the gull

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Wildlife of Costa Rica

The March membership meeting will feature a program by John Roush on the spectacular wildlife of Costa Rica. The program will emphasize the birds of Costa Rica but will also include a discussion of the fascinating archeology of that country.

Please plan to join us March 10 at Fort Mason, Building C, Room 100. Use the Fort Mason entrance at Laguna and Marina in San Francisco. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The April general membership meeting will feature an illustrated program on the wildflowers of the San Francisco Bay Area by long-time GGAS member Paul Covell.

The meeting will be on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley.

Chapter members may be interested to know that Paul plans to lead a bus trip to the desert in early April to view wildflowers. Those interested in this outing can contact Paul at 530-2513.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Field Trips Calendar

See the February *Gull* for the following trips:

Saturday, March 5—San Pablo Reservoir.

Saturday, March 12—San Francisco Bird Blitz.

Sunday, March 13—Tennessee Cove.

Wednesday, March 9—Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir. Meet at 9 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 to the Orinda off-ramp, follow the sign on the

right to the reservoir. There is a \$1 fee for day parking. We will see song and winter birds. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, March 19—Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the park entrance. Take I-680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd. (the freeway sign is marked Calaveras Rd., Dumbarton Bridge, Hwy. 84), go south and follow the signs to Sunol Park, about five miles. Bring lunch and liquids. (Park regulations prohibit alcoholic beverages.) We should see Golden Eagles, a variety of winter residents and early spring migrants. Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199). (✓)

Sunday, March 27—Coyote Hills Regional Park and San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (SFBNWR). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the visitors' center. From Hwy. 17 or Hwy. 84 exit at Jarvis Ave. and follow the signs to the park. During the morning we will bird at Coyote Hills. After lunch we will caravan to the SFBNWR to see the exhibits at the visitors' center and look at birds in the adjoining area. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. In case of rain, please contact the leader. Leader: Paul Covel (530-2513). (✓)

Saturday, April 2—Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. This a good time to see wintering grebes and ducks and a few spring migrants. If you take the #72 bus be sure to get off at Ocean Ave. because the next stop is Winston Dr., about one-half mile away. Lunch is optional for this half-day trip. Leader: Naomi Svenningsen (584-6233). (✓)

Sunday, April 3—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. for the traditional Easter walk around the Chain of Lakes and the other lakes in the vicinity. There is a variety of waterfowl including Wood Ducks at this time of year. We also should see at least two varieties of hummingbirds. After the walk we will have a champagne brunch at the Wave Restaurant (\$4-\$5). We will meet at 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. near North Lake (Chain of Lakes). Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 work phone). (✓)

Saturday, April 9—Bothe-Napa State Park. This a particularly beautiful park in the spring, with migrating warblers and vireos, Winter Wrens, wildflowers and, if we are lucky, Pileated Woodpeckers. We will walk about four to five miles and will bird mostly by ear. From the East Bay take I-80 north, turn off to Napa and follow Hwy. 29 to St. Helena. The entrance to the park is on your left just past the Old Bale Mill north

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of St. Helena. From the West Bay, take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 37 near Novato, go east to the junction with Hwy. 121, turn left and follow 121 north and east to Napa where it joins Hwy. 29. Continue northwest to the park. Meet in the parking lot at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch and liquids. There is a day use fee. Rain cancels trip. Please carpool if possible. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6892). (✓)

Sunday, April 10—San Bruno Mountain County Park. From San Francisco take Hwy. 280 south to Daly City. Exit at Eastmoor Ave., Mission. Go left onto Sullivan and then left onto Eastmoor. Take Eastmoor across Market. You will then be on East Market. Follow East Market which will become Guadalupe Ave. Continue on Guadalupe Ave. to Radio Rd. Turn right on Radio Rd. and park near the San Bruno Mountain County Park sign. Meet at **9 a.m.** We will be looking at spring wildflowers, birds and the general ecology of the Franciscan Life Zone. We will also observe the only example of a Franciscan fresh water marsh. This trip will be led by a well-known San Francisco ecologist. Leader: Ed Bedecarrax. (✓)

Note from the Field Trips Committee—Beginners are always welcome on GGAS field trips. Leaders and participants are eager to introduce newcomers to this activity which we all enjoy. From time to time the committee will plan trips especially for beginners. These trips will generally go to nearby areas to see resident species.

Saturday, April 9—Beginners' Trip to Five Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Five Brooks parking lot (about three miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We will look for early spring migrants near the pond, then caravan to Audubon Canyon Ranch with stops along Bolinas Lagoon. Bring your lunch and we will picnic at the Ranch (\$1 contribution). After lunch we'll walk up to the overlook to see the nesting herons and egrets. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Gloria Markowitz (892-2910). (✓)

Corpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Farallon Island Trip

GGAS will sponsor a boat trip to circle the Farallon Islands on Sunday, May 29. We will have an opportunity to view nesting and migrating seabirds, many of which are sighted only occasionally from the mainland. Past trips have produced sightings of Tufted Puffins, shearwaters, albatross and several species of marine mammals.

Reservations can be made by sending \$23 per person with a self-addressed stamped envelope to GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Checks should be made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society. Space for the trip is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. We plan an early morning departure from the Emeryville Marina.

—PETE WHITE

January Observations — through January 28

The month's weather lacked balance, all dry during the first half and nonstop storms thereafter.

CICONIIFORMES AND ANSERIFORMES

The Least Bittern remained the easiest to see of Palo Alto's rare marsh birds throughout the month (mob). Up to seven White-faced Ibises lingered in the McEvoy Harbor/West Pittsburg area and the two Cattle Egrets nearby were the only ones reported (BR).

Four Ross' Geese were at Moss Landing Marine Lab Dec. 29 (LCB, BDP, JP) and two toured Spreckels Lake, Golden Gate Park, Jan. 1-16 (PG, et al., DM). Snow and White-fronted Geese have also been well-reported and the latter species is inhabiting the Briones Reservoir area in substantial flocks (SFB, et al.). Emeryville's **King Eider** showed site fidelity at least through Jan. 24 (mob). South of their Mendocino-Sonoma counties stronghold, Harlequin Ducks were reported from Moss Landing Dec. 29 (JP, BDP, LCB) and Pacific Grove (2) Dec. 30 (fide JP). Barrow's Goldeneyes are widely scattered, in very small numbers, but we are accustomed to the uniqueness of the major concentration in the Oakland area and a lesser group in Foster City. Thus up to 30 at the east end of the Richmond Bridge in mid-January (BR) is noteworthy. Foster City's beautiful male **Smew** remained a top attraction throughout the period (mob).

HAWKS AND SHOREBIRDS

Broad-winged Hawks continued to be resighted and discovered in unprecedented numbers. One east of Valley Ford was resighted Jan. 2 (BDP). Two wintering just north of Inverness near Chicken Ranch Beach had different fates; one window-killed on Jan. 15 (RM, fide DS) but the other survived through January (mob, DQ). Two more Broad-winged Hawks were found in Monterey County, one in Carmel Highlands Dec. 30-31 (RB) and the other near Prunedale Dec. 31 (BDP, JP, LCB). Finally, another Broad-wing appeared Jan. 20-28 at Marine World Parkway and Bayshore Freeway in Belmont (PM, SFB, KLB).

Six to eight Lesser Golden Plovers were in the Spaletta Ranch fields on Point Reyes Dec. 31 through January (AG, WG, DQ). Three Mountain Plovers were spotted Jan. 20-21 along Byron Highway in the area where a larger flock has been seen in recent winters (BR, MAD). Rock

Sandpipers have been even fewer than usual, with only one wintering on Bodega Head (mob) and another at Pebble Beach, San Mateo County, Jan. 15 (JM, et al.).

MONTEREY COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT LANDBIRDS

The Monterey Peninsula Christmas Count Dec. 30 reaped an incredible harvest of rare landbirds, both eastern and lingering summer species (fide JP). Pacific Grove alone contributed (JP, JS, LCB, et al.) a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Eastern Phoebe, **Virginia's Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, Tennessee Warbler, six Nashville Warblers, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole and both "Baltimore" and "Bullock's" Northern Orioles! Monterey chipped in another Eastern Phoebe (returning to last year's location in El Estero Cemetery), Tennessee Warbler, two Black-and-white Warblers and "Bullock's" Northern Oriole (TC, BDP, et al.). Laguna Grande had a Yellow Warbler and Carmel Valley Golf Course added yet two more Black-and-white Warblers (JML, et al.).

Highlights of the Moss Landing Christmas Count Jan. 1 included three Western Flycatchers, Ash-throated Flycatcher and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (fide JP).

OTHER LANDBIRDS

About 15 Vaux's Swifts are wintering at Pescadero Marsh (BS, PM), where flocks have remained in previous years, but two at Hayward Shoreline Jan. 5 (BR) were at a new location. A Tropical Kingbird has been roaming the north side of Lake Merritt since at least December 31 (RY, JM, mob). Our other kingbird was a Cassin's at Los Baños Reservoir Dec. 28 (KH). The **Eurasian Skylark** is still being seen at Hall Ranch (AG, WG, GL, DQ). Another aerial insectivore wintering at Pescadero Marsh is a Barn Swallow (BS, PM).

Rare but regular in winter, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Coyote Hills Jan. 11 (JR, et al.). Another gnatcatcher is wintering at Pilarcitos Creek, Half Moon Bay, in a flock including a Nashville Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and, on Jan. 20, even a male **Prairie Warbler** (all PM)! One mile north at Frenchmans Creek, a Tennessee Warbler was found Jan. 5 (PM). Another Nashville Warbler was in Castro Valley Jan. 8 (BR). Sacramento State University arboretum held an American Redstart on Jan. 11 (ML, JML, et al.).

An immature Summer Tanager at Lake Merritt since Jan. 1 (JM, AG, WG, mob) became rather tame during the month. At Dumbarton Marsh, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was resighted Jan. 2 (BR). At least one Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed at Palo Alto during each of the month's many extra-high tides (mob) and the presence of two was finally confirmed Jan. 29 (JM, mob). An adult Swamp Sparrow was in the same

patch of cattails as the Sharp-tails Dec. 29-Jan. 26 (PM, AE, GB, DM, mob), but it was not seen the next three days when an immature Swamp Sparrow was encountered instead (PM, SFB, mob). One Harris' Sparrow near Cotati was still present Jan. 15 (BDP). A Chestnut-collared Longspur in Hayward Jan. 25 (BR) was the first for Alameda County.

Observers: Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldridge, Benton Basham, Max Beckwith, Laurence C. Binford, George Bing, Ron Brandon, Ted Chandik, Mary Ann Danielson, Art Edwards, Gary Fellers, Tim Gates, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Pedro Gonzales, Kem Hainebach, Keith Hanson (KH), George Hugenberg, Dick Johnson, Jeri M. Peter Metropulos (PM), Hugh Miller, Ruth Mitchell, many observers Langham, Gary Lester, Mike Lippsmeyer, John Luther, Mary McKinnon, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Dan Murphy, Pete Myers, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, David Quady, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Barry Sauppe, Adam Scher, Dave Shuford (DS), Dianne Sierra, Malcolm Sproul, John Stirling, Russell Young.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720
(phone 548-9507 or Joe Morlan at 524-7421)

Conservation Notes

MONO LAKE UPDATE

Due to heavy rains and extraordinary run-off (more water than the Los Angeles DWP could divert), 100,000 acre feet reached Mono Lake and raised it 22 inches higher than the 1981 level.

In Congress, a Congressional subcommittee headed by Congressman Seiberling of Ohio visited Mono Lake to review it for possible status as a National Monument. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

In the State Legislature a bill introduced to fund research on Mono Lake will probably fail due to the budget crisis. However, the Mono Lake Committee will support the bill in order to educate new and old members of the legislature.

The lawsuit between National Audubon and the City of Los Angeles has yet to be decided. David Gaines, of the Mono Lake Committee, feels this is a good sign because a decision in favor of the City of Los Angeles probably would have already been made.

The Mono Lake Committee thanks all Auduboners for their previous support and invites all other interested Auduboners to get involved in protecting Mono Lake. Contact Michael or Marty at 956-7532.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA CONDOR UPDATE

The Working Group on Captive Breeding and Reintroduction of California Condors has submitted a Summary and Recommendations document to the State Fish and Game Commission. This nine-page document is, in essence, a set of recommendations for the acceleration of the captive breeding program. The implications are that the free-flying population of California condors will be located entirely in zoos by 1985 if these recommendations are accepted. At its February 4 meeting, the Commission held a brief discussion on the recommendations. At least one member of the Commission, Raymond Dasmann of Santa Cruz, expressed his concern that, if the Working Group's plan is accepted, there will be no viable wild population into which captive-bred condors can be released in the future. Because of the technical nature of the document, the Commission asked that the matter be referred to the Condor Advisory Committee for discussion and recommendation. The Commission will take up the matter again at its March meeting.

The GGAS Board of Directors urges all GGAS members to voice their opinions, either favorable or unfavorable, to the California Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

—GGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GOLDEN GATE PARK LAKES

Since late fall, the Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park has been undergoing the traumas of redevelopment. Middle Lake and the lower half of North Lake were drained, removing 83 years of sediment and vegetation. Islands and marsh areas were redefined, some shoreline was cleared, the bottoms were sealed with bentonite and the lakes were refilled. Mallards returned to Middle Lake about a month after it was refilled. The upper half of North Lake was not deepened or sealed so many of the ducks, coots and gulls were not displaced. Fish and turtles were removed from work areas by crews from the California Academy of Sciences, the Recreation and Park Department and the contractor who removed the sediment. Nonetheless, several hundred fish, mostly carp, died in two incidents at North Lake when water was drained during the course of a weekend and no city workers were available to adjust the water level or remove the fish. Both lakes are presently at or near normal water levels.

The next phase for redevelopment of the Chain of Lakes is a revegetation project. Removal of many undesirable plants such as pampas grass, bamboo and ivy is planned. Golden Gate Audubon Society is

presently working with the Recreation and Park Department to develop a plant list which will meet habitat requirements for the widest possible variety of bird life while enhancing the beauty of the area.

—DAN MURPHY

NEW THREATS TO OUR BLACK BEARS

That corpulent comedian of American forests, the black bear, now confronts a menace even more deadly than sports hunters, traps and poisons. Its claws, paws and gall bladders are in great demand as aphrodisiacs for wealthy Asians. One gall bladder will bring \$3,000 in the Orient. Certain parts of the mountain lion and velvet deer antlers are also highly prized. In California alone many hundreds of bears fell victims to poachers before Department of Fish and Game investigators brought ringleaders into court, where fines most inadequate for the extent of damage and the poachers' profits were levied.

Ursula Fassii of the Wildlife Conservation Coalition has asked our chapter to publicize this growing menace to our bears and other big game. The presence in our forests much of each year of hounds and owners "for training purposes" has led to frequent collaboration with the poachers as the prices offered are hard for many to resist. We hope soon to offer more information on what steps are being taken by the Department of Fish and Game and other agencies in this crisis.

Poacher leads can be phoned toll-free to 1-800-952-5400. Reward offered.

—PAUL F. COVEL

AUDUBON DOES SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

In a recent editorial, the San Francisco *Examiner* did the Audubon cause a great disservice when it used a United Press International story about a new report announced by NAS President Russell Peterson. In the UPI story, the writer correctly quoted Peterson as stating:

"Even when it comes to solar energy and energy conservation, there is still no such thing as a free lunch."

Unfortunately, the writer omitted the rest of the statement, as follows:

"But if we go into the solar age with our eyes open, aware of possible pitfalls as well as the tremendous potential, then renewable energy offers far and away the best alternative to the pollution, land abuse, and national security threats attendant on fossil fuels and nuclear power."

The report, *Side Effects of Renewable Energy Sources*, lists nine sources of renewable energy and in each case identifies possible problems and mitigation measures. The *Examiner*, in its editorial, nominates the

Society for the playoffs as Killjoy of the Year because it seeks to evaluate the possible risks to the environment of the uses of renewable energy sources.

In his reply to the editorial, Mr. Peterson states that the National Audubon Society sees renewable solar energy and increased energy efficiency as the *only* safe, sane, environmentally sound energy future for the United States and the rest of the world. The Society will be releasing the second Audubon Energy Plan in March. The new plan will detail criticism of the Reagan Administration's energy policies and show specifically how we can and must be well along the solar energy path by the year 2000.

The Back Yard Birder

My guess is that hummingbirds are among the most recognizable species by birders and non-birders alike. Their brilliant, iridescent colors, their ability to hover as well as to fly in reverse, their fearlessness, combine to capture any observer's imagination.

The name comes from the whir of their wings, not from their voice. Only a quarter of hummingbird species are called "hummingbirds." Ornithologists have dubbed them such sentimental and whimsical names as coquette, mountain gem, sun angel, comet, fairy, sunbeam and brilliant.

Ranging in size from 8½" in length to the 2¼" Bee Hummingbird (the world's smallest bird), there are about 320 members of the family. In North America we have 14 breeding species, but only one, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, breeds east of the Mississippi River. Most are considered tropical, but the Rufous Hummingbird breeds in southern Alaska.

With specially adapted bills (long, thin and pointed) and tongues (extremely long, extensible, becoming tubular at the tip and ending with a brush tip), the hummingbird feeds on flowers' nectar. They also enjoy the occasional spider or insect. Because they have the highest metabolism rate of any warm-blooded animal, these tiny dynamos must feed nearly every waking moment. When they must, perhaps on days when food is scarce, they can slow down their bodily functions at night to conserve energy, much as a hibernating bear does.

As you would expect, their flight muscles are highly developed and comprise up to ⅔ of their body weight. Some of the smaller species have wingbeats of up to 80 per second and some can fly at speeds from 27 mph to as high as 50 mph.

Despite its small size, the hummingbird is very aggressive, defending

its territory against any rivals. If it decides it is being invaded it will attack larger birds, dogs, cats and even people.

If you are lucky, you might discover a hummingbird's nest, a perfect little cup formed from lichen, bound together with spider silk and lined with plant down (or lint from your dryer). After spectacular courtship displays, which the female can hardly resist, the rather chauvanistic male departs, leaving the female to build a nest and to raise the children alone. There are almost always two eggs. When feeding her young, the mother sticks her long bill down the baby's throat and pumps in partially digested food, a somewhat startling sight.

Often we have discovered an errant hummingbird frantically flying about in our garage. A butterfly net is the perfect device for rescuing the bird. As if it senses its fragility, the bird doesn't struggle once netted, patiently awaiting release. If you don't have a net handy, the bird will eventually tire and find a place to perch and you can gently pick it up. Once out in the open, hold the bird on the flat of your hand and when it has recovered it will dart off, buzzing excitedly.

The Rufous Hummingbird merely passes through the Bay Area in spring and fall. The Allen's Hummingbird spends spring and summer with us, while the larger Anna's Hummingbird spends the entire year here. It courts and breeds in January which I find a cruel time of year for such delicate-appearing young. A harsh storm can easily wipe out a family because their nests are usually in the open. Do they raise another clutch? Do they raise more than one family a year? I'd like to know.

If ever you happen to visit the San Diego Zoo, don't miss the hummingbird aviary. The birds are so tame they land on your head or your shoulder, quite a thrill for children and adults alike.

—MEG PAULETICH

Spring Bird Classes — Bodega Marine Laboratory

The BML is sponsoring three one-day ornithology classes emphasizing field identification, seasonal distribution, abundance and winter ecology. The classes will be taught by Terry Schick, John Maron and Craig Hohenberger. A fee is to be charged and proceeds will be used to support graduate student research at BML. For information and registration call Craig Hohenberger after 5 p.m. at (707) 865-1286 or write the Bodega Marine Laboratory, P.O. Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.

Pelagic Birds—Bodega Bay, Saturday, April 9.

Shore and Water Birds of Bodega Bay, Saturday, April 16.

Spring Migrants, Resident and Wintering Birds of Bodega Bay, Saturday, April 23.

NAS Western Education Center Activities

Many informative programs are conducted by Audubon staff members at the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Marin County at 276 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. The Center publishes a monthly list of free and fee activities. Generally there are guided walks Sundays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and a film showing at 3 or 3:30 p.m. You may phone 388-2524 for information.

March 10 and 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Barbara Prince, Marin Audubon Society, will lecture on *Early Naturalists on the Pacific Coast*, giving the stories of ten 18th and 19th century expeditions. Her talk will be illustrated with slides of Bay Area birds and plants whose names are legacies from these discoverers. The fee for the two lectures is \$8.

Reservations are required.

Point Reyes Field Seminars

Point Reyes Field Seminars offers a spring brochure of programs which you may have by writing to them at Point Reyes, CA 94956, or by phoning 663-1200. In March the program will be *Owls of the Point Reyes Peninsula*, taught by Bob Stewart, on both Saturday, March 26, and Sunday, March 27. The fee is \$25.

Information Day: Berkeley Waterfront

On Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. a "Berkeley Waterfront Informational Day" will be held in the auditorium of Boalt Hall on the UC Campus. Information on all aspects of the planning prospects of the waterfront — considered by some as the most important planning issue Berkeley will face for decades to come — will be made available to all interested citizens.

This important meeting is being sponsored by the Council of Neighborhood Associations, Friends of Berkeley Parks, Urban Care and the League of Women Voters of Berkeley. For questions concerning the program and registration, phone the LWV office, 843-8824, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Program brochures will be mailed in the near future.

Cliff Swallow Colonies?

Several graduate students at UC Berkeley are beginning a study of the effect of ectoparasites on the breeding success of Cliff Swallows in the Berkeley area. Any information on the location and size of any Cliff Swallow colonies within about 30 miles of Berkeley would be most kindly appreciated. Please write to David Winkler, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley, CA 94720, or call 642-2893 or 843-6904.

The President's Corner

Before I get on my soapbox again, I would like to express my — and the Board's — appreciation to Andrea Kieserman for her service as Executive Director during the past 18 months. By the time this issue of the *Gull* reaches you, Andrea will be hard at work surveying a grid at the Palomarin station of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Andrea has efficiently handled her duties as office manager, representative to numerous coalitions and as all-around helper to the Board and Chapter committees. I know that I speak for the Board in wishing Andrea the best in her new endeavors.

It seems that we can never relax our vigilance where water resources are concerned. This time the threat does not come from Southern California, but from our own backyard. The City of San Francisco has applied to the Federal Energy Resources Commission to build new power projects on the remaining free-flowing channel of the Tuolumne River. The city would join with the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts to produce more electricity from the energy provided by the river's flow. This time there is no issue of flood control or water supply. The issue is increased profits for the city's Hetch Hetchy system versus the recreational and natural values of the river.

There is a number of things we can do to protect the river from becoming a victim the second time to the City. First, there will probably have been legislation introduced in Congress to designate the free-flowing river as part of the National Scenic and Wild Rivers System by the time this *Gull* arrives. This is the best hope to protect the river and I urge you to support it in any way possible. San Franciscans can also aid the cause by following carefully the EIR/EIS process which the City must pursue if it is to obtain permits from the Federal Energy Resources Commission for the proposed projects. At last word, the Commission has agreed not to proceed with the applications until Congress acts on the Wild River status, but the City can start its process at any time.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Chairman Hazel Houston would be very pleased to have volunteers assist her with refreshments at membership meetings. The meetings, of course, alternate between San Francisco and Berkeley. Help is needed in both places. Please call her at 835-7347 to find out what is needed and to offer your services. This organization depends on volunteers.

This issue affects not only river rafters, fishermen and nature lovers. The proposed projects will also flood out of existence the City of Berkeley's Tuolumne Family Camp and the village of Hardin Flat, dry up the water supply for the San Jose Family Camp and destroy the very valuable habitat for Southern Bald Eagle, Spotted Owl, Prairie Falcon and several threatened species of plants, as well as some of the only remaining riparian habitat in the Sierra foothills.

We owe it to the memory of John Muir to protect what remains of the Tuolumne. We cannot allow the Tuolumne to become San Francisco's Mono Lake.

—JON ZABLACKIS

Adieu

When I first took my place in the GGAS office, little did I know that I would be an expert on just about *any* subject related to birds (how long Scrub Jay eggs incubate, the Latin name of the Asian Open-billed Stork). At least that's what the general public seemed to think. It has been an interesting and educational job and I'd like to thank GGAS for the opportunity to work with them.

I would like to remind all *Gull* readers that the GGAS office is for *you* and if you need a book on Mexican birds, information on camping in Florida or Bay Area free nature classes, come into the office and I'm sure you will find what you need.

Any *Gull* readers who would like to get involved with GGAS committees, all of which welcome new participants. Call the office if you meets once a month to work on local and national environmental issues. The education committee is in the process of developing a slide program on the importance of wetlands for elementary school children. There are also finance, hospitality, membership, program and publicity committees, all of which welcome new participants. Call the office if you are interested!

—ANDREA KIESERMAN

Cooper's Meeting

On Monday, March 14, Dr. David Ainley of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will present a talk to the Northern Chapter of Cooper's Ornithological Society entitled: "Seabird communities of the South Pacific: Latitudinal comparisons."

Dr. Ainley has spent many field seasons with the seabirds of the Southern Hemisphere. This talk promises to enlighten us on the birds of one of earth's most expansive and poorly understood regions.

The presentation will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, UC-Berkeley, preceded by a business meeting at 7:45 p.m. All interested in birds are invited to attend.

From the Ranch —

In 1968 Audubon Canyon Ranch purchased the Thompson Ranch to the southeast of what is now Picher Canyon and in 1970 named it "Volunteer Canyon" in honor of the volunteers who protected the Bolinas Lagoon from the great oil spill. The Ranch planned from the start to use this canyon primarily for educational purposes and all through the 1970s funds were raised and plans made to accomplish the building complex that now exists.

The canyon's educational promise is now being used to its full capacity. A typical three-day stay was one organized last fall by Marjorie Schwartz, ACR board member and teaching assistant at San Francisco's Sherman School. During this time 26 students stayed in the dormitories, cooked all meals in the Hubbard Kitchen Center, did K. P. and followed an active environmental study program under the direction of staff.

A number of parents assisted as chaperones and helpers — a guitar-playing Chicano father, a 72-year-old grandfather, a non-English-speaking Chinese mother, a Black major, a Jewish mother, a WASP father. This cultural diversity was reflected in the young students. An environmental awareness was brought to an extremely diverse group.

Classes consisted of nature walks followed by diary writing, an afternoon treasure hunt, a night observation of the silence of the dark woods, laboratory work, gardening in the organic farm, mask making and drawing, exploration of our swamp, all interspersed with rough-housing, playing, frisbee throwing.

This is what Audubon Canyon Ranch is all about: to show young Americans how unspoiled nature can enrich their lives.

—CLIFFORD COOLY

Audubon Canyon Ranch Activities

Each spring and fall ACR offers seminars to the public. The fee is modest and the participants stay the weekend at the beautiful Hubbard Center in Volunteer Canyon. Current offerings are March 16 (one day only) on *The Basics of Beekeeping*, fee \$15, and a three-day family celebration, *Baskets, Bunnies and Hot Cross Buns*, for which the fee is \$60 per family. Dates are March 31, April 1-2.

A brochure giving all the offerings is available by writing to Volunteer Canyon, 4800 Highway 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 or by calling 383-1644.

Thanks

A special thank-you to Betty Short for helping with the Christmas Bird Count get-together, also Pete and Dolores White, Bob and Deborah Hirt and all you other wonderful people.

—NINA KELLY

BALLOT **Note:** This ballot is for members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society only. If you are not a member, do not return this ballot.

For your ballot to be counted it must be returned not later than **March 31**. Please remove this ballot from *The Gull* and mail or bring it to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. You may vote for seven candidates.

Check one:

- ☐ This ballot represents one vote for each candidate.
- ☐ This ballot represents two votes (family membership).

Board Nominees:

- ☐ Dan Murphy, President
- ☐ Trudy Jackson, First Vice President
- ☐ Shirley Kelly, Second Vice President
- ☐ Ross Jennings, Treasurer
- ☐ Minnie Groshong, Corresponding Secretary*
- ☐ John Nutt, East Bay Director
- ☐ Woody Kuehn, West Bay Director

Others:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

*A vote for Ms. Groshong constitutes approval of the nominee to retain a position for more than the maximum three-year term.

Name:.....Signature.....

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

Gift of

In memory of
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In honor of

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Minnie Groshong, Corresponding Secretary, Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Office: 843-2222
2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206
Berkeley, California 94705

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THE GULL

March 1983

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President, Jon Zablackis (527-2083)*
First Vice President, Dan Murphy (564-0074)*
Second Vice President,
Recording Secretary, Helen Green (526-5943)*
Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong (526-8443)*
Treasurer, Ross Jennings (235-4986)*

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Conservation, Trudi Jackson (548-1352)*
Education, GGAS office (843-2222)
Field Trips, Shirley Kelly (387-8290)*
Extended Field Trips, GGAS office (843-2222)
Finance, Joyce Davis (524-1506)
Hospitality, Hazel Houston (635-7347)*
Membership, Maybelle Groshong (526-8443)*

*Member of the Board of Directors

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211
Executive Director, Hillary Hulen (843-2222)

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual \$17, senior citizen family \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.

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